



Key Stage 4 Options  
Opsiyau CA4  
2026





Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer

### **The Year Ahead and Key Stage 4 Course Options Process**

Soon we will commence the 'Options process' whereby Year 9 students decide their Key Stage Four courses. We appreciate it is an exciting and daunting prospect for students and parents, and have put together this helpful guide to the year and the support and processes involved. All students in Wales study **Core courses**, including English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Numeracy, Science, Welsh, Physical Education, Well Being and the Welsh Bacallaureate. Additionally, students have some choice to select **non-core** qualifications, so need to consider how they best study as well as what they study, having the opportunity to opt to study their passions and interests. Students can select a large number of GCSEs and choose only GCSEs, if that is appropriate for them. Alternatively, students can combine GCSEs with Level 1 or 2 vocational qualifications.

At Monmouth Comprehensive, we believe in offering a wide range of non-core course options. Some subjects are more "applied" or more practical than others, and are assessed in a different way from more traditional exams. The process of choosing courses is in two steps:

**Step 1** is to take part in the **Free Choice** Survey: students select FIVE non-core courses from the survey.

**Step 2** is to complete the **Block Choice** Survey: students select FOUR courses from the Option blocks.

Details of all our subjects will be given in our Year 9 Options booklet, published on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. Information on further communication points and key dates across the remainder of the academic year are outlined below.

#### **Publication of Year 9 Options e-booklet on the MCS website**

**Friday 7th November**

Publication of the Year 9 Options e-booklet available to view from this date through the MCS website. Click:

#### **Year 9 Parent Information Meeting: Course Options process**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 5-6pm**

There will be a parent information meeting in the school hall on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 5-6pm. This is to support students and families in choosing options. Faculty Leaders of non-core qualifications (i.e. subjects which students can choose to study further) will give brief presentations on course content and structure. There will then be opportunity for some Q and A and bespoke conversations afterwards. This will be of particular value to students considering opting for a new subject not offered at Key Stage 3.

#### **Decision Making skills workshop with Careers Wales**

**beginning Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Each Year 9 form group will be involved in a workshop with Career Wales during the next 3 weeks. The workshop will build decision making skills and support students in understanding the value of getting the right advice and guidance before making decisions that will shape their future.

#### **Publication of online 'Free Choice' Survey Form**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

The Year 9 online 'Free Choice' Survey course selection process goes live. Both the booklet and Free Choice Form will be available to view and complete through the MCS website. Click:

#### **Year 9 Options Assembly for students**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Students will have an assembly from staff in school to reinforce how and why to choose the right Key Stage Four courses for them, based on their strengths, interests and ability, as well a reminder of the key processes and dates in this guide.

#### **Year 9 Parents' Evening appointment with the Form Tutor on School Cloud**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Parents can make an online appointment with their child's Form Tutor to discuss overall progress in Year 9, ideas for course choices at Key Stage Four and suitability. More information on making School Cloud appointments will follow in a separate communication.

**Non-core subject Taster Sessions.****From Monday 24 November**

Taster sessions will take place during lessons this fortnight for non-core qualifications, allowing students to sample what learning is like.

**Deadline to submit the online Year 9 Free Choice Survey Form****Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Parents and students have until this date to submit the online google form to have their combination of courses considered by the school when timetabling. Staff will review courses and their appropriateness for students and contact parents accordingly.

**Year 9 mid-year Student Progress report****Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

A summary of your child's progress across their Year 9 subjects will be emailed to parents, which will support with consideration of Key Stage Four course choices.

**Year 9 Block Choices Form Launch****Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

The Curriculum Blocks Form will be given to students to bring home on this date; students will choose their FOUR non-core qualifications from the combinations presented on the paper form.

**Year 9 Assembly Block Choices explained.****Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Assembly for Year 9 students explaining the block Choice process and how to complete the Form.

**Year 9 Parents' Evening on School Cloud****Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

This online Parents' Evening provides an opportunity to book appointments with the full range of your child's subject teachers, to review learning in the individual subject areas in advance of option choices which need to be finalised in February. It is another opportunity to discuss particular, subject-based questions about Key Stage Four courses.

**The MCS Careers and Higher Education Fair****Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

This is an in-person event held in school. A large number of higher and further education institutions and employers exhibit at MCS and are able to field questions from students and their families about future applications and potential career paths, and what qualifications therefore may be helpful to select for Key Stage Four.

**Block Choice Form Submission Deadline****Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Deadline for the submission of the final course choices, via paper form. Staff will review courses and their appropriateness for students and contact parents accordingly.

**Key Stage 4 lessons begin****Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Key Stage Four courses begin for students in Year 9. Students will follow their new GCSE timetable and meet their GCSE teachers.

**Annual Summary Report****Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

These reports are emailed home. The report summarises Year 9 performance, attainment and wellbeing (it will not contain data on new Key Stage Four courses as they will have only just begun).

Yours sincerely

**Mrs C Tamplin**  
**Head of Year 9**

**Miss C Edginton**  
**Associate Assistant Headteacher**

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**Summary of Sixth Form Courses Offered in 2025**

## How will my curriculum be different in Year 10?

### Sut fydd y cwricwlwm yn wahanol ym Mlwyddyn 10?

In Years 7-9, every student follows much the same course, designed to introduce them to all the main areas of the curriculum and provide a solid foundation for further studies.

In Years 10 and 11, everyone must continue with the core subjects of English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Numeracy, Double Science, Welsh and PE. Most students will also follow the Skills Challenge Certificate. Students have the opportunity to choose four further subjects that they wish to follow at Key Stage Four.

## What qualifications can be achieved?/Pa gymwysterau?

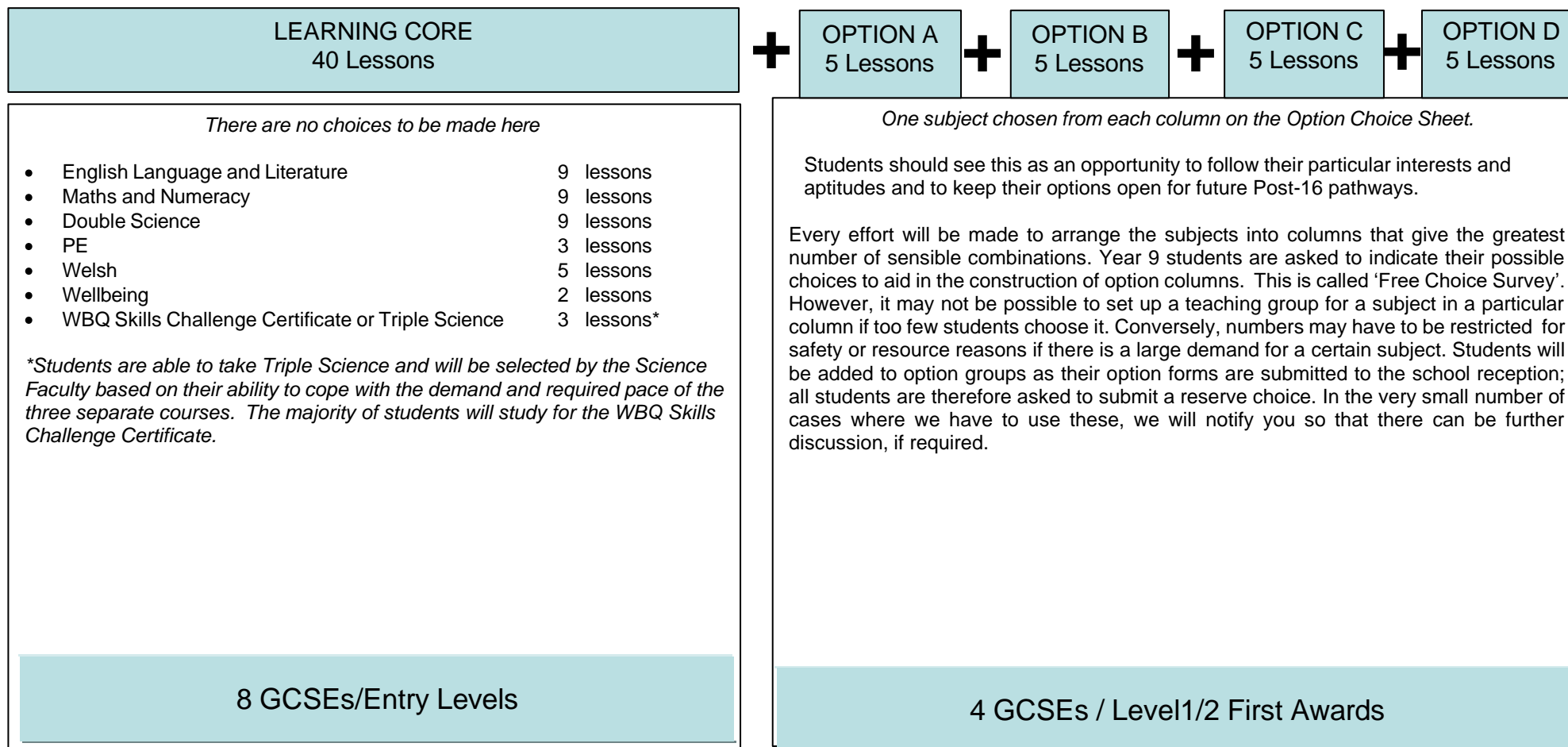
GCSE	Level 1 / 2 Awards	Entry and Introductory Level	Welsh Baccalaureate National Skills Challenge Certificate
<p>Many of the two-year courses in Years 10 and 11 lead to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). This is graded from A* to G for each subject.</p> <p>The minimum level for going on to Level 3 courses or direct entry to many careers, is six grades at C or above. Achievement at lower grades than this can represent a considerable achievement for some students and equip them to study vocational courses at Colleges of Further Education, or entry into employment.</p> <p>Students wishing to join MCS Sixth Form are required to have achieved six GCSEs grades A*-C to include either Mathematics or English Language.</p>	<p>These are genuinely vocational courses; several have been running successfully for many years. They are highly valued by employers and institutes of higher and further education.</p> <p>The Level 2 Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE at grades A*-C.</p> <p>The Level 1 Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE at grades D-G, the Level 1 Certificate 2 GCSEs at grades D-G, and the Level 1 Diploma 4 GCSEs at grades D- G.</p> <p>There is an element of external assessment (17% or 25%); the remaining assessment is based on assignments that simulate real employment and investigate actual places of work. They are a chance for all students to learn and demonstrate skills in a different way from GCSE.</p>	<p>For students who find GCSE too academic, or Level 2 Awards too demanding, we have an outstanding record of success in Entry Level courses. Students who achieve these will be well equipped to go on to Further Education, training or employment. SNRB course choices will be discussed separately with Mr Hobbs.</p>	<p>To fulfil the requirements of the Welsh Baccalaureate, students will be graded in three challenges as part of the Skills Challenge Certificate component of the qualification. These three challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Individual Project:</b> This is an independent, research-based assignment on an individually selected subject. Learners demonstrate the knowledge and skills to produce a written investigation or an artefact/product supported by written research.</li> <li>• <b>Enterprise and Employability Challenge:</b> To develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability.</li> <li>• <b>Community Challenge:</b> For learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit their community.</li> </ul> <p>The Skills Challenge Certificate is graded A*-G and has the equivalence of one GCSE.</p> <p>All students will also need to have the following to achieve the qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GCSEs:</b> GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.</li> <li>• <b>Supporting qualifications:</b> For example, other GCSEs and/or vocational qualifications</li> </ul>

## How is the curriculum organised?

### Trefn y Cwricwlwm?

At Monmouth Comprehensive School, we believe in offering a wide range of options. Details of all the subjects are given further on in this booklet. Students have some choice of **how** they study as well as **what** they study. Some subjects are more “applied” or more practical than others, and are assessed in a different way from more traditional exams.

The curriculum is organised into a timetable of 60 lessons, of 50 minutes each, in a fortnight.



# Key Stage Four Course Choices

## The Welsh Baccalaureate National Skills Challenge Certificate

### Tystysgrif Her Sgiliau Bagloriaeth Cymru Cenedlaethol

The Welsh Baccalaureate is a rigorous qualification that allows students to develop and apply the skills they need for college, university, employment and life. Grading has been introduced to strengthen the qualification and properly reward students who achieve high standards. Students will follow the National Welsh Baccalaureate (Level 2) in Key Stage 4.

#### What will students need to do?

Students will need to complete the following challenges as part of the Skills Challenge Certificate (graded A\*-C at Level 2):

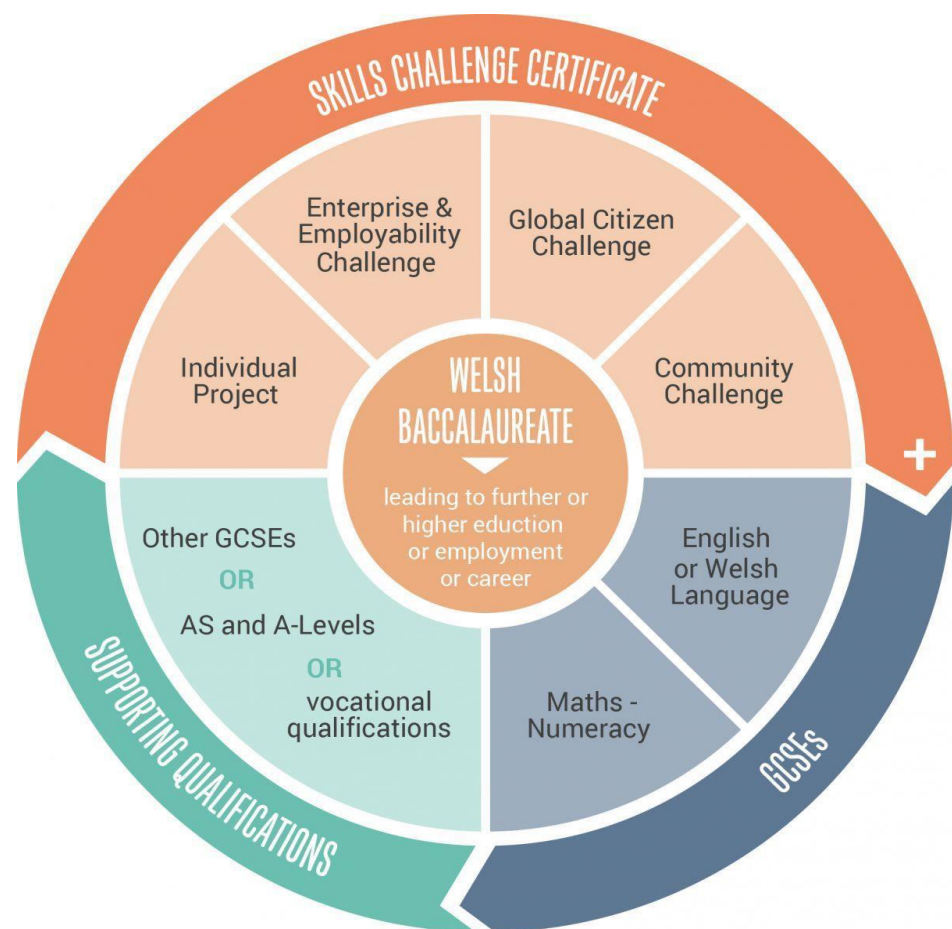
- **Individual Project:** This is an independent, research-based assignment on an individually selected subject. Students demonstrate the knowledge and skills to produce a written investigation or an artefact/product supported by individual research.
- **Enterprise and Employability Challenge:** To develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability.
- **Community Challenge:** For students to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the community.

All students will also need to have:

- **GCSEs:** GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.
- **Supporting qualifications:** For example, three other GCSEs and/or vocational qualifications

The Welsh Baccalaureate will have a clear focus on the following skills.

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness



## The Duke of Edinburgh Award Gwobr Dug Caeredin

There is more to the next two years than just working towards your formal qualifications. You also have the opportunity to develop your wider Essential Skills of Improving Own Learning and Performance, Problem Solving & Working with Others through the DofE (Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme). These genuine life skills will help you both inside and outside the school; they are also highly valued by universities & employers. The DofE is a balanced programme of activities which develops the mind body and soul in a non-competitive environment of social interaction and team working. DofE is also great fun!

There are 4 elements in the programme:

### 1 Physical:

Improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities by regular participation (minimum of 1 hour per week) over 3 months.

### 2 Skill:

Developing practical & social skills & personal interests by regular participation (minimum 1 hour per week) over 3 months.

### 3 Volunteering:

Undertaking service to individuals or the community by regular participation (minimum 1 hour per week) over 3 months

You must follow two of these 3 elements for 3 months and one for 6 months. All activities must be done in your own

time. For many this means getting a certificate for activities which you already do; it does not mean taking on a lot of extra work. It does, however, require commitment.

### 4 Expedition

You must have completed 2 elements of the award and have them signed off in your logbook before expedition training starts after Easter. This will involve a series of training sessions after school, a local one day weekend practice expedition & the 2 day (one night) assessed expedition in the Black Mountains.



For further information visit <http://www.dofe.org>.

## Key things to consider Pethau i Ystyried

### The “Personalised Curriculum”

This is an opportunity for students to develop particular interests and aptitudes. Students tend to work with greatest commitment in subjects they enjoy and succeed in.

### “Keeping Your Options Open”

If you are unsure which direction to take at this stage, try to include a variety of different types of subject. Experience has shown that many young people change their minds between the ages of 14 and 16. Whilst expertise and enthusiasm in one area is valuable, versatility and adaptability will be important in a fast- changing world. Students may find a subject hard or unappealing at 14, but grow to see its value as they later develop their ability and interest in it.

### Vocational Courses

#### Level 1 & 2 Vocational Awards/Certificates/Diplomas

Vocational qualifications will have the equivalence of 1 GCSE in most cases. A Diploma has the equivalence of 4 GCSEs. Please see course guides for specific information.

On vocational learning programmes students are assessed in a simulated working environment on a range of courses. Students may be supported through their programme by a school based Vocational Mentor. The various courses allow students to experience and develop a broad range of skills with students progressing termly through the areas of learning in their chosen route. An enthusiastic attitude to learning, good attendance and positive interactions with others are the requirements to be accepted onto, and remain following, these programmes. Your Head of Year will discuss your application for these courses with you (see pages 28-33).

**IMPORTANT DATES/DYDDIADAU PWYSIG****Wellbeing Lessons – November 2025**

All students are engaged in a series of presentations and activities which help them to think about their future options.

This included referring to the Careers Wales Website ([www.careerswales.com/year9](http://www.careerswales.com/year9)) which has descriptions of subjects and courses available.

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Options e-Booklet published.

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The Year Ahead and Key Stage 4 Course Choices Explained: Parents' Information Evening.

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Free Choice Form launched.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Free Choice Form returned.

**Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Option Form issued and Options presentation available at school and online.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Year 9 Parents' Evening – during these meetings options will be explored with parents/carers.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

MCS Careers and Higher Education Fair

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Closing Date for handing in options forms to tutors.

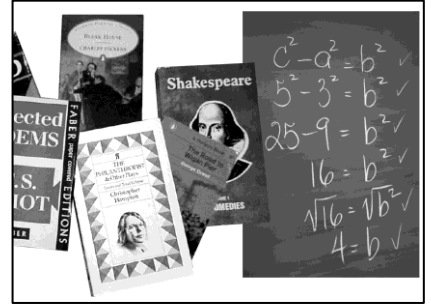
**IMPORTANT NOTE/ NODYN PWYSIG**

Every effort will be made to arrange the subjects into columns that give the greatest number of sensible combinations. Year 9 students are asked to indicate their possible choices to aid in the construction of these columns during 'Free Choice'. **However, it may not be possible to set up a teaching group for a subject in a particular column if too few students choose it. Conversely, numbers may have to be restricted for safety or resource reasons if there is a large demand for a certain subject. Students will be added to option groups as option forms are submitted to the school reception; all students are therefore asked to submit a reserve choice.** In the very small number of cases where we have to use these, we will notify you so that there can be further discussion, if required.

**HELPFUL HINTS**

- **DO** talk to parents, subject teachers, careers staff - they are all there to help.
- **DO** read the subject details in this booklet carefully, and ask if you need to know more.
- **DO** choose subjects that you like or feel you are good at - you are most likely to work enthusiastically at these and succeed with them.
- **DO** remember that we also need to work hard at some things we do not feel particularly suited to if they are essential for our future development.
- **DO** be realistic about how many qualifications you should aim for.
- **DO** consider Vocational Courses, including Level 1 / Level 2 First Awards. What style of learning and assessment suits you?
- **DON'T** choose a subject because you like a particular teacher. You may well have a different one next year.
- **DON'T** choose a subject because your friends are choosing it. You are deciding about your future and they probably wouldn't be in the same group as you anyway.
- **DON'T** think of any subject as being "only for boys" or "only for girls". Such ideas are totally false and unhelpful.

# Section 1/ Rhan 1 The Learning Core Pynciau Craidd



## ENGLISH SAESNEG

The English faculty offers two separate GCSE pathways at key stage 4. The majority of students will study **double award GCSE English Language and Literature**, which incorporates both the broad development of language skills, addressing writing, reading, and speaking and listening; and the study of literature and our literary heritage. Students who follow the double award option will be taught in mixed ability classes.

We also offer **single award GCSE English Language and Literature**, which is a streamlined version of the above qualification. However, this pathway will also give learners the ability to study English as a foundation subject, giving every child the best chance of leaving school with an English qualification.

There are opportunities in English beyond GCSE. **English Language and English Literature are available at A Level**, and access to both of these subjects can be secured with a B grade in GCSE English Language *and* a B grade in GCSE English Literature.

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>1.1 English Double Award</b>
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### Why would I want to study this course?

You want to study **double award GCSE English Language and Literature** because good and effective English is central to so many aspects of our daily lives. To function we need to be able to read, write, speak and listen and the more skilled we are, the more successful we are going to be, whether it is in school, college, work or even in our home and social lives. That is why so many employers require a GCSE grade of at least a C in English.

Anybody who enjoys stories will enjoy this course, being concerned as it is with plays, novels and poetry from so many of the great writers of English literature. Literature is at its best a reflection of life and can stimulate enthusiastic debate which focuses upon your skills of analysis, argument and persuasion. By reading the writing of gifted authors you are giving your own written and spoken language a welcome injection of sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical structures which will impact upon your performance in all academic subjects.

### What qualification does the course lead to?

The equivalent of two GCSEs.

### What will I study?

You will study how English is used in the everyday world and how to use that knowledge to improve and maximise the effectiveness of your communication skills. You will learn how effective language users possess a perceptive understanding of their audience and the purpose of their communication and how they can use that awareness to make effective language choices. You will focus particularly upon non-fiction texts, reading and understanding the techniques that have been used so that you are able to deploy them in your own writing with high levels of technical accuracy. You will also learn how to become an even more effective speaker and listener, how to interact with and respond to other speakers, creating and sustaining a variety of speaking roles.

You will also study a variety of literary texts from all genres and from right across the historical and geographical spectrum. You will study Shakespeare, whose plays have had such a dramatic impact upon the development not only of our literary tradition, but also our language itself; you will also read novels of our own age which speak of the lives that we live here and now, in addition to those from writers outside of Great Britain, extending our own cultural understanding of other peoples. You will learn how to analyse poetry that you have never read before, honing your skill as a reader, decoding unfamiliar texts, identifying both literal and subtextual meanings.

### How will I learn?

You will mainly learn by doing; the best way to improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening is to read, write, speak and listen in a supportive environment. Your teacher will, at all times, give you a very clear sense of your learning objectives and provide clear objective feedback which will allow you to learn from the experience. You will be given the tools to reflect upon your own performance and thereby set your own targets.

You will also learn how to become a successful reader, and the best way to do this is to read in a variety of contexts; as a class, in small groups, in pairs but also on your own. Your teacher will teach you how to read more effectively; teach you what to do when you are confused by something and what questions to ask of yourself to exploit your reading to the full. You will learn by talking about what you have read; discussion with your teacher and your fellow students will allow you to develop your appreciation of the texts that you are studying, and you will learn by writing, which will force you to focus upon what you have read in forensic detail.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by both external examination, and non-examination assessment.

Course Name	<b>1.2 English Single Award</b>
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### Why would I want to study this course?

You want to study **single award GCSE English Language and Literature** because good and effective English is central to so many aspects of our daily lives. To function we need to be able to read, write, speak and listen and the more skilled we are, the more successful we are going to be, whether it is in school, college, work or even in our home and social lives.

Anybody who enjoys stories will enjoy this course. Literature is a reflection of life and can stimulate enthusiastic debate which focuses upon your skills of analysis, argument and persuasion. By reading the writing of gifted authors you are giving your own written and spoken language a welcome injection of sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical structures which will impact upon your performance in all academic subjects. Following this pathway will also allow you to study **English as a foundation subject**, giving you every chance of leaving school with an important English qualification.

### What qualification does the course lead to?

The equivalent of one GCSE.

### What will I study?

You will study how English is used in the everyday world and how to use that knowledge to improve and maximise the effectiveness of your communication skills. You will learn how effective language users possess a perceptive understanding of their audience and the purpose of their communication and how they can use that awareness to make effective language choices. You will focus particularly upon non-fiction texts, reading and understanding the techniques that have been used so that you are able to deploy them in your own writing with high levels of technical accuracy. You will also learn how to become an even more effective speaker and listener, how to interact with and respond to other speakers, creating and sustaining a variety of speaking roles.

You will also study a variety of literary texts from all genres and from right across the historical and geographical spectrum. You will study Shakespeare, whose plays have had such a dramatic impact upon the development not only of our literary tradition, but also our language itself; you will also read novels of our own age which speak of the lives that we live here and now, in addition to those from writers outside of Great Britain, extending our own cultural understanding of other peoples. You will learn how to analyse poetry that you have never read before, honing your skill as a reader, decoding unfamiliar texts, identifying both literal and sub-textual meanings.

### How will I learn?

You will mainly learn by doing; the best way to improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening is to read, write, speak and listen in a supportive environment. Your teacher will, at all times, give you a very clear sense of your learning objectives and provide clear objective feedback which will allow you to learn from the experience. You will be given the tools to reflect upon your own performance and thereby set your own targets.

You will also learn how to become a successful reader, and the best way to do this is to read in a variety of contexts; as a class, in small groups, in pairs but also on your own. Your teacher will teach you how to read more effectively; teach you what to do when you are confused by something and what questions to ask of yourself to exploit your reading to the full. You will learn by talking about what you have read; discussion with your teacher and your fellow students will allow you to develop your appreciation of the texts that you are studying, and you will learn by writing, which will force you to focus upon what you have read in forensic detail.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by both external examination, and non-examination assessment.

## **MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY (DOUBLE AWARD) MATHEMATEG A RHIFEDD (GWOBR DWBL)**

Mathematics is a vital, core subject for all students up until the end of Key Stage 4. Not only is it viewed as a necessary subject by most employers, studying mathematics has many tangible benefits.

Mathematics promotes logical reasoning, clear presentation and argument. Whilst studying the content learners will develop their confidence in, and gain a positive attitude towards, Mathematics; recognising the importance and relevance to their everyday lives and to society.

The program of study will enable learners to appreciate the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of mathematics. It will prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices and will have an emphasis on those aspects of mathematics required for progression into mathematically-related disciplines or employment routes. Problems are set both in real-world contexts and within mathematics itself and will encourage learners to employ and evaluate different mathematical techniques.

Pupils are taught in sets according to the tier of entry they will sit in their GCSE (Higher or Foundation) and work is set at a pace and a level appropriate to their developing abilities. A variety of pathways are used to enable students to work to their full capacity while increasing in mathematical confidence and skills. In matching an appropriate pathway to a student, our aim is simply to provide the right qualifications for each student that takes into account his/her aptitude, interest and future ambition in Mathematics.

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>1.3 Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)</b>
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### Why would I want to study this course?

Mathematics and Numeracy are an important part of everyday life and students need the skills and confidence to apply, combine and adapt their mathematical skills to new situations in their life and work. By studying this course you will have the opportunity to gain a Double Award GCSE in Mathematics and Numeracy. Many careers require a formal qualification in Mathematics especially Engineering, Construction, Banking, Economics and Teaching. The course will encourage you to demonstrate and improve your problem-solving skills and extend your technical understanding of Mathematics as well as applying Mathematics to the real world and other subjects.

### What qualification does the course lead to?

#### **GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)**

Graded on a 9-point scale as follows:  
A\*A\*, AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, FF, GG, U.

### What will I study?

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy (30%) – Calculator allowed

The purpose of this unit is to develop learners' understanding of concepts relating to finance and to develop their financial literacy

Unit 2: Non-calculator (30%)

The purpose of this unit is to explore mathematical topics and concepts that don't require the use of a calculator (e.g. probability)

Unit 3: Calculator (40%)

The purpose of this unit is to explore topics and concepts that are more appropriately assessed with a calculator (e.g. trigonometry).

This course will allow you to develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical and statistical methods, techniques and concepts by:

- selecting and applying appropriate mathematics and statistics in situations and contexts in the real world
- using mathematics to represent, analyse and interpret information
- acquiring and using strategies for problem solving
- interpreting mathematical results and justifying conclusions that are relevant to the problem

### How will I learn?

Students continue to study Mathematics and Numeracy following on from their Year 9 work at an appropriate level. Knowledge and understanding of the subject will develop as you experience and participate in a range of activities such as:

- Practising and consolidating skills in class and at home
- Working independently and in small groups to share ideas and compare strategies when solving problems
- Investigating problems and creating opportunities to discover new areas of Mathematics

### How will I be assessed?

This is a unitised qualification.

There are two tiers of entry for this qualification:  
Higher Tier: A\* – D      Foundation Tier: C – G

Learners may be entered at different tiers across units.

**GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)** is assessed through three examinations. Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be sat at the end of Year 10 and Unit 3 will be completed in Year 11.

Course Name

**1.4 Science - Double Science (9 lessons)****Why would I want to study this course?**

Students will complete a Double GCSE Science qualification during their Key Stage Four studies which makes up 10 hours per fortnight of their curriculum time.

In this pathway students will follow the **WJEC GCSE Science (Double Award)** Qualification.

This course allows for students to progress to Advanced Level courses in science (if they wish to) as well as providing students with a thorough and balanced education across all three science fields of Biology, Chemistry & Physics.

**What qualification does the course lead to?****GCSE Science (Double Award)**

Graded on a 17-point scale as follows:

A\*A\* , A\*A , AA , AB , BB , BC , CC , CD , DD , DE , EE , EF , FF , FG , GG , GU , U.

**What will I study?****GCSE Science**

This covers the traditional technical and engaging content that is required at GCSE across the three subject areas of Biology, Chemistry & Physics, and provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Learners will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They will be helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences.

**How will I learn?**

Science engages students in a wide range of activities and learning styles, for example: through practical work developing laboratory skill; through small group and class discussions; by modelling and understanding key scientific concepts; discussing and making scientific and/or ethical judgements; data handling and analysis through graphs; practising examination style questions.

Those following the **GCSE Science** course will have three science teachers, one each for Biology, Chemistry & Physics. This models the examination structure that students will meet.

**How will I be assessed?**

**GCSE Science** is assessed through six theory examinations, each worth 15%, and one practical assessment, worth 10%.

The first three theory examinations would be taken at the end of Yr10. The final three examinations occur at the end of Yr11.

## Course Name

## 1.5 Science - Triple Science (12 lessons)

## Why would I want to study this course?

We acknowledge that many of our students have a high ability in and great enthusiasm for science. To reflect this, we also offer another route: Triple Science. Students will still have 10 hours per fortnight teaching time, but will study for three separate qualifications: **GCSE Biology**; **GCSE Chemistry** & **GCSE Physics**.

The contents of these GCSEs are not any more difficult than the other GCSEs on offer; however, they are completed in the same time as usually allocated to two GCSEs. As such it has a higher workload and greater pace. **This course is not an option.** Students will be invited to study Triple Science based on their academic performance in Year 9 and their passion for the subject. The minimum requirements for accessing Triple Science will be a B grade in the end of Year 9 exam.

This course provides good preparation for those wishing to study science at Advanced level.

**Students completing Triple Science are able to:**

- pursue one of the many careers involving advanced or technical science, such as teacher, architect, engineer, dentist, vet, doctor, nurse, electrician, midwife, physiotherapist;
- go on to study science at Advanced level, and be well prepared for such courses;
- possess a wider knowledge of the subject areas

## What qualification does the course lead to?

**GCSE Biology** and **GCSE Chemistry** and **GCSE Physics**

## What will I study?

**GCSE Biology** explores how living things function, adapt and relate to their natural environment. It covers the topics of Cells, Organ Systems & Ecosystems in Yr10 and Variation, Homeostasis & Micro-organisms in Yr11.

**GCSE Chemistry** explores the composition of substances, their properties and reactions. It covers the topics of Chemical Substances, Reactions & Essential Resources in Yr10 and Chemical Bonding, Applications of Chemistry & Organic Chemistry in Yr11.

**GCSE Physics** explores the mechanics of our Universe, looking at matter, energy and movement. It covers the topics of Electricity, Energy & Waves in Yr10 and Forces, Space & Radioactivity in Yr11.

## How will I learn?

*It is important to remember that the workload and pace of delivery will be greater in Triple Science.*

Science engages students in a wide range of activities and learning styles, for example: through practical work developing laboratory skill; through small group and class discussions; by modelling and understanding key scientific concepts; discussing and making scientific and/or ethical judgements; data handling and analysis through graphs; practising examination style questions.

- Students in Triple Science will have three science teachers, one for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## How will I be assessed?

The structure of your assessment for *each* GCSE (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) is as follows:

There are two theory examinations, each worth 45% and a practical assessment worth 10%.

The first theory examination would be taken at the end of Yr10 & the second at the end of Yr11.

Course Name	<b>1.6 Skills Challenge Certificate</b>
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### Why would I want to study this course?

The Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) which is a skills-based approach to learning with a clear focus on the development and application of essential and employability skills through learning challenges. These lessons provide you with the opportunity to explore, debate, and develop your understanding of the world in which you live via learning opportunities that are authentic and relevant. The different themes and challenges form part of the SCC which is an integral component of the National Welsh Baccalaureate which is an important component of every student's learning programme.

### What qualification does the course lead to?

Students receive three Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) lessons per fortnight.

The Skills Challenge Certificate is a rigorous qualification that allows students to develop and apply the skills they need for college, university, employment and life. The grading system is in line with all GCSE/Level 2 (graded A\*-C at Level 2) course and has strengthened the qualification to properly reward students who achieve high standards.

### What will I study?

Students will need to complete the following challenges through the Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC):

- **Individual Project:** This is an independent, research-based assignment on an individually selected subject. Students demonstrate the knowledge and skills to produce a written investigation or an artefact/product supported by written research.
- **Enterprise and Employability Challenge:** To develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability.
- **Community Challenge:** For students to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the community.

These challenges will be completed as part of the Skills Challenge Certificate component of the qualification (graded A\*-C at Level 2):

The course has a clear focus on the following skills:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

### How will I learn?

You will have three lessons a fortnight and will be taught using a variety of methods and resources, both in and out of the classroom. The method of learning has been designed to encourage you to take responsibility in your own learning and at times work independently to meet challenges and deadlines.

There will be opportunities to develop and apply skills in the local community, both independently and via working with others.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through the three challenges of the Skills Challenge Certificate as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. Particular focus will be made on how specific skills are developed and applied in a range of contexts and situations. Each challenge will be individually graded and all evidence will come from the work completed as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Course Name

**1.7 TGAU Cymraeg Craidd/ GCSE Core Cymraeg****Why would I want to study this course?**

Welsh GCSE is a very important qualification as it is directly relevant to many careers such as Journalism, Teaching, Translating, Local Government and working for the tourism industry or the media. In Wales, all pupils study Welsh up to the age of 16, as they would study Maths, English and Science, therefore a young person would be at a disadvantage if applying for a job in Wales without a GCSE in Welsh.

Whilst studying for GCSE Welsh, pupils have the opportunity to attend visits to Cardiff or to North Wales and may also have the chance to accompany Year 7 and 8 pupils on a trip to Llangrannog in West Wales.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

All students will work towards the same Full GCSE in Core Cymraeg. This is the same as all other schools across Wales and so students will leave school with the same qualification in Welsh.

**What will I study?**

You will prepare for 4 different examinations, each with different content and assessment requirements. Whilst studying for Welsh GCSE, you will have the opportunity to learn both the Welsh language and about Wales and its culture.

You will study the 3 broad topics of 'Cynefin' (Habitat), 'Identity' and 'Culture' which will be assessed in the various examinations.

You will have the opportunity to develop your reading, writing and speaking skills and all of these skills will be examined in Year 11.

**How will I learn?**

- The course will enable you to develop real life language skills, taught through lively, fun and varied activities.
- You will learn how to speak Welsh naturally and to read and write Welsh confidently.
- You will also study Welsh literature- 2 short stories and 2 poems.

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1- Speaking and Listening Exam to be completed in the Autumn term of Year 11 (25%)

Unit 2- Speaking and Listening Exam to be completed in the Easter of Year 11 (25%)

Unit 3- Reading and Writing Exam (Preparing for the Future) to be completed in the Summer of Year 11 (25%)

Unit 4- Reading and Writing Exam (Literature and Creative) to be completed in the Summer of Year 11 (25%)

Everyone will complete all 4 Units in order to achieve the qualification.

Course Name	<b>1.8 Physical Education/ Addysg Gorfforol</b>
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### Why would I want to study this course?

Physical Education is a core subject at Key Stage 4. Physical Education aims to educate all students about the importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle. Students will receive 3 hours of Physical Education a fortnight where students will have the opportunity to achieve a range of qualifications.

### What qualification does the course lead to?

The following pathways are available for our learners:

- National Curriculum Physical Education.

\* **GCSE Physical Education and WJEC Sport and Coaching Principles are available in option blocks.**

### What will I study?

#### **National Curriculum Physical Education:**

- Practical activities are explored with the emphasis on lifelong participation. This pathway will not lead to a qualification but will aim to educate students about how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.
- For students who opt for GCSE Physical Education these lessons will support their practical profile in the range of activities studied. All students will be assessed against the GCSE PE criteria and a mark awarded by their practical teacher. This is a vital part of their GCSE PE course.

### How will I learn?

#### **National Curriculum Physical Education:**

Students will learn through practical participation. Students will also have the opportunity to explore theoretical concepts that will build their knowledge and understanding on how to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

### How will I be assessed?

#### **National Curriculum Physical Education:**

There is no assessment for this pathway, as core PE is statutory across Wales.

# Section 2

## Social Sciences

### Rhan 2

#### Gwyddorau Cymdeithasol



## Course Name

## 2.1 Psychology/ Seicoleg

## Why would I want to study this course?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour with a focus on understanding why we behave the way we do. This research shapes the world we live in, from the way packaging is designed to preparing athletes for competitions. Careers in this field include; criminal psychologists, health and/or sports psychologists, law enforcement and marketing. No matter what career path you take it is highly likely psychology will be woven into it.

By exploring research, theories and key concepts students develop an understanding of how psychologists research behaviours, using both humans and animals. Student will also develop skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving to engage in debates such as whether behaviour is the result of nature (biology) or nurture (environment), whilst developing literacy skills through their extending writing.

Psychology follows the principles of science so an enthusiasm and understanding of this subject is highly beneficial. Confidence in Maths and English will also be helpful as examinations include mathematical calculations as well as extended written responses.

## What qualification does the course lead to?

1 GCSE in Psychology that is offered across England and Wales and will be graded 9 (A\* equivalent) to 1 (G grade equivalent)

## What will I study?

The course is divided into two papers which consist of:

**Paper one:**

- **Criminal psychology:** what is a crime? Why do some people commit crimes? How effective are methods of punishment and rehabilitation at preventing crime and reoffending?
- **Development:** how does the brain develop in the womb? How do we learn and begin to understand the world?
- **Psychological problems:** what is mental health? What are the criteria, explanations and treatments for schizophrenia and depression?

**Paper two:**

- **Social influences:** how do others influence our behaviour and what factors can either strengthen or weaken these influences?
- **Memory:** how do we process and store information? Is our memory as accurate as we think?
- **Sleep and Dreaming:** What are the features and processes of sleeping? What factors could impact on sleep e.g. sleep disorders? Theories of dreaming

In both papers students will also need to demonstrate knowledge of research methods. To do so, students will learn about how research is designed, conducted, analysed and presented. This topic includes the thought-provoking concept of ethics in research and infamous psychological studies that will shock students and spark debates.

## How will I learn?

All students receive a booklet for each topic which aligns with the PowerPoint presentations used in the classroom. These booklets allow for a focus on demonstrating understanding and applying knowledge rather than constant note taking that can take up valuable learning time. Whilst working through the booklets, students will engage in a variety of activities including; completing past paper questions, small group and class discussions, independent research tasks and reenacting studies where possible.

At the end of each topic students will complete a test which will allow for progress to be monitored, though this will not be used to punish students.

## How will I be assessed?

As this course is led by OCR students will not be assessed until the summer in year 11. Students will sit two exams both lasting 1 hour and a half hours each with both papers contributing towards 50% of the overall qualification.

Further information about the course can be found at <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/psychology-j203-from-2017/specification-at-a-glance/>

## Course Name

## 2.2 Health and Social Care &amp; Childcare

**Why would I want to study this course?**

GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare (Single Award – 1 GCSE) will equip you with knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals through life from conception and infancy to later adulthood.

This GCSE will support you in continuing study in related Level 3 courses and entering career choices related to Health and Social Care.

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare supports learners to:

- understand the principles of human development, health and wellbeing
- explore how the health and social care, and childcare sectors support and promote the development, health and wellbeing of individuals
- describe the principles, values and approaches that underpin the work of health and social care, and childcare professionals in Wales
- understand key conditions and illnesses in adulthood and childhood
- explore the cross-cutting theme of human rights and diversity, particularly in relation to service provision in health and social care, and childcare.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

1 GCSE in Health and Social Care and Childcare (Single Award)

**What will I study?****Unit 1 Health and Social Care, and Childcare in Wales in the 21st Century**

The purpose of this unit is to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- the life cycle and the factors that affect growth and development
- the promotion and maintenance of health and wellbeing and tools that can be used to measure and support this
- core principles and values, underpinned by legislation and service provision within a Welsh context, across the health and social care, and childcare sectors

**Unit 2 Adult Health and Social Care**

The purpose of this unit is to gain knowledge and understanding of:

- individual needs and key conditions and illnesses in adulthood
- how professionals work in adult health and social care to achieve positive outcomes
- the role of health promotion in public health in Wales

**Unit 3 Childcare**

The purpose of this unit is to gain knowledge and understanding of:

- physical, intellectual, language, emotional, and social (PILES) development
- key conditions and illnesses of children
- how professionals work, including play and play work, to meet the needs of children in Wales to achieve positive outcomes.

**How will I learn?**

You will have opportunities to investigate care issues and topics of your own choice in the coursework. Lessons will be delivered in a variety of styles to suit the topic. There will be the opportunity for significant independent work and therefore students that opt for this pathway must be focused and motivated to achieve

**How will I be assessed?****Unit 1 Health and Social Care, and Childcare in Wales in the 21st Century**

*Written examination*

*40% of qualification - 80 marks*

**Unit 2 Adult Health and Social Care**

*Non-Examination Assessment: 12 hours*

*Marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC*

*30% of qualification - 60 marks*

**Unit 3 Childcare**

*Non-Examination Assessment: 12 hours*

*Marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC*

*30% of qualification - 60 marks*

## Course Name

## 2.3 Business/Busnes

**Why would I want to study this course?**

The WJEC GCSE Business qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful. You will gain an insight into critical issues facing businesses and ways in which these can be solved. You will undertake research to make reasoned judgements and think critically about businesses in your area. You will also reflect on business activity in the context of the environment and sustainability. You will study the impact business has on society. You will explore job market trends and understand different business careers and employment opportunities available to you.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

WJEC GCSE Business (Level 1/2)

**What will I study?**

The GCSE Business course is presented in four clear and distinct topic areas:

**Unit 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSINESS WORLD**

In this unit, you will study the fundamentals of business. You will explore the purpose of business activity and the nature of business enterprises, understanding the different types of business ownership and aims. Additionally, you will learn about markets and business sectors, and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.

**Unit 2 KEY BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS**

In this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and to use your research findings to produce a report.

**Unit 3 BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

In this unit you will explore the key business functions of finance, marketing, human resources, and production. Additionally, you will study strategies for business growth and understand how businesses are affected by political, legal, and economic external factors.

**Unit 4 BUSINESS CREATION**

In this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary market research to collect information for an entrepreneurial opportunity you have identified. You will produce a report that covers key aspects of your business proposal

**How will I learn?****Units 1 and 3**

Assessed by written examinations containing both short and extended answers, with some based around business situations. Each exam will last 1hr 15min. 60% of your final grade will be from your performance during the examinations.

**Unit 2 and 4**

Non-examined assessments where you will be given an assignment brief to complete. You will undertake research, analyse the data and provide judgements. Both units are completed during allocated lesson time in accordance with the exam boards requirements. 40% of your final grade will be from your performance in your coursework.

**How will I be assessed?**

GCSE Business helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

1. Literacy Skills  
Reading, writing, understanding, and engaging with various forms of text and information.
2. Numeracy Skills  
Understanding, interpreting, and working with numbers to solve business problems.
3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving  
Analysing business information to make decisions or judgments.
4. Personal Effectiveness Skills  
Achieving your goals by managing your time, setting targets and learning from your experiences.
5. Creativity and innovation  
Thinking creatively, by coming up with solutions to business problems.

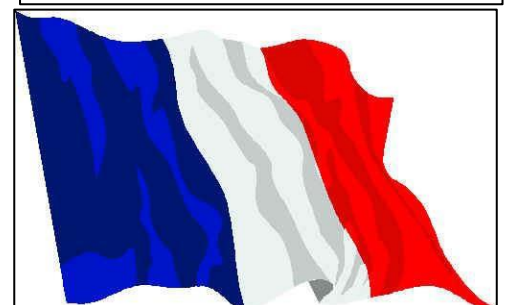
GCSE Business will equip you with a range of skills that are not only valuable for studying business further, but which will combine with variety of subjects.

# Section 3

## Languages

### Rhan 3

#### leithoedd



Course Name

3.1 French/ Ffrangeg

**Why would I want to study this course?**

While any language will be useful for some jobs or for some regions, French is the only foreign language that can be useful throughout the world as well as in the United States. Why study French then, here are some of hundreds of good reasons to:

- A variety of skills used through the language learning process.
- In Business and Careers speaking more than one language is a skill which will increase your marketability whichever career you chose.
- Travelling and cultural knowledge: Speaking a new language helps you to get to know another people and culture.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

The course will directly lead to a GCSE in French ( A\* - G). However, it enables students to carry on studying French at A Level and then at university.

**What will I study?**

You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work. **Units 1, 3 and 4** will be based on the following broad themes. Sub-themes are exemplified for each broad theme:

- **language for leisure and wellbeing**, for example: healthy mind and body, self and relationships, using technology and media
- **language for travel**, for example: travelling around the world, the cultures of where the language is spoken, sustainability
- **language for study and work**, for example: study and work opportunities, working with languages at home and abroad.

**How will I learn?**

The WJEC GCSE in French has been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture. Building on new vocabulary and models, pupils will then be given practical opportunities to adapt and practise their own language through writing or speaking.

**How will I be assessed?**

There are 4 units for GCSE French Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in your classroom, also in your final year of study.

**UNIT 1 – Oracy**

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of French pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

**UNIT 2 - Reading and Writing**

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in French. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in French about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied. This unit is worth 15% of the qualification.

**Unit 3 – Listening**

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen a range of speakers in French and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English.

**Unit 4 - Reading and Writing**

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in French and answers questions on them in English. You will also be required to complete a translation into English. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in French from a choice of 3 questions

Course Name

**3.2 German/ Almaeneg****Why would I want to study this course?**

More people speak German as their native language than any other language in Europe. It's no wonder, since Germany's 83 million inhabitants make it the most populous European nation. But it is not only the residents of Germany who speak German. It is also an official language of Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Liechtenstein. German is the second most commonly used scientific language and the third most common language used in business after English and Japanese. It is an excellent subject to study in combination with business or science, however can be used in most combinations of subjects. Studying German may be also beneficial to many areas of employment. You may also discover it may lead to many exciting opportunities.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

The course will directly lead to a GCSE in German (A\*-G). It enables students to carry on studying German at A Level and at university.

**What will I study?**

You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work. **Units 1, 3 and 4** will be based on the following broad themes. Sub-themes are exemplified for each broad theme:

- ***language for leisure and wellbeing***, for example: healthy mind and body, self and relationships, using technology and media
- ***language for travel***, for example: travelling around the world, the cultures of where the language is spoken, sustainability
- ***language for study and work***, for example: study and work opportunities, working with languages at home and abroad.

**How will I learn?**

German is taught in an enjoyable way in a variety of methods to sustain interest and develop different skill areas.

The WJEC GCSE in German has been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture. Building on new vocabulary and models, pupils will then be given practical opportunities to adapt and practice their own language through writing or speaking.

There are opportunities to attend Study Days and links with German students are also encouraged.

German is fun and helps give students confidence in communicating ideas and opinions.

**How will I be assessed?**

There are 4 units for GCSE German. Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in your classroom, also in your final year of study.

**UNIT 1 – Oracy**

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of German pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

**UNIT 2 - Reading and Writing**

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in German. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in German about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied. This unit is worth 15% of the qualification.

**Unit 3 – Listening**

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen a range of speakers in German and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English.

**Unit 4 - Reading and Writing**

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in German and answers questions on them in English. You will also be required to complete a translation into German. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in German from a choice of 3 questions.

Course Name

**3.3 Spanish/ Sbaeneg****Why would I want to study this course?**

Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world after Mandarin and English. There are over 350 million native speakers world-wide and Spanish is the second language of the USA. Central and South America are important developing new markets for the European Union and the UK has a shortage of Spanish speakers! Spanish is an ideal language to study in conjunction with a vast array of other subjects including business, the sciences and humanities.

If you have a good understanding of how languages work and enjoy working intensively and rising to a challenge then Spanish is for you! It is worth remembering that 75% of the world's population do not speak English!

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

The course will directly lead to a GCSE in Spanish. ( A\*-G).It enables students to carry on studying Spanish at A level and at university.

**What will I study?**

You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work. **Units 1, 3 and 4** will be based on the following broad themes. Sub-themes are exemplified for each broad theme:

- **language for leisure and wellbeing**, for example: healthy mind and body, self and relationships, using technology and media
- **language for travel**, for example: travelling around the world, the cultures of where the language is spoken, sustainability
- **language for study and work**, for example: study and work opportunities, working with languages at home and abroad.

**How will I learn?**

The WJEC GCSE in Spanish has been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture. Spanish is taught in a lively and enjoyable way using a variety of teaching methods such as music and video to sustain interest and develop skill areas. Any form of link with the Spanish -speaking world is encouraged.

**How will I be assessed?**

There are 4 units for GCSE Spanish. Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in your classroom, also in your final year of study.

**UNIT 1 – Oracy**

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of Spanish pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

**UNIT 2 - Reading and Writing**

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in Spanish. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in Spanish about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied. This unit is worth 15% of the qualification.

**Unit 3 – Listening**

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen a range of speakers in Spanish and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English.

**Unit 4 - Reading and Writing**

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in Spanish and answers questions on them in English. You will also be required to complete a translation into English. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in Spanish from a choice of 3 questions.

**Section 4**  
**Level 1 / Level 2**  
**Vocational Awards**  
**Rhan 4**  
**Gwobrau**  
**Galwedigaethol**  
**Lefel 1/ 2**



Course Name

**4.1 WJEC Level 1 / Level 2 Award in Sport & Coaching Principles****Why would I want to study this course?**

The aims of this qualification are to:

- inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in one of the many sporting industries, such as coaching, personal training, sport development, performance analysis or teaching;
- give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the sports industry across each discipline;
- support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational post-16 Education or academic sport course or an apprenticeship;
- give learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the Sport sector. Junior job roles include: Leisure Centre Assistant, Coaching Assistant or part time referee;
- provide the first step in shaping a pathway towards further and higher education at sixth form, college or university.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Sport & Coaching Principles (1 GCSE).

**What will I study?**

Unit Number	Unit Title		Assessment	% of Award
1	Fitness for Sport	Mandatory	External	40
2	Improving Sporting Performance	Mandatory	Internal	25
3	Coaching Principles	Mandatory	Internal	35

The award course centres around the 3 above units which cover a wealth of information relating to developing performance, fitness, how we train, why we train, our bodies adaptations to exercise, sports development and provision and much more.

The majority of the course will be assessed internally and will involve completing coursework which will centre around a variety of different tasks. Some will be practically based and some will be presentations, reports or other formats.

Unit 1 is externally assessed which will test students' knowledge and understanding of all aspects affecting an individual's ability to take part in sporting activities. This unit introduces learners to the adaptations that take place in the body following exercise, how training can lead to improvements in fitness and the planning of training programmes. The aim of this unit is to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to plan training programmes to improve the fitness of individuals.

Unit 2 introduces learners to how different areas of sporting performance can be improved. The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the knowledge and understanding needed to be able to analyse sporting performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for improvement.

Unit 3 introduces learners to the principles involved in sports coaching. The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the appropriate knowledge and understanding to be able to plan, lead and evaluate a coaching session within a sporting activity.

**How will I learn?**

During the course pupils will be expected to take part in paired or group work, carry out action and Internet research, write and give presentations and write reports.

Practical activities, such as coaching, performing, officiating, analysing performances, organising and running tournaments will build upon previous knowledge.

Independent research into sport will be an essential part of the course. This research will be used to support the assessment projects.

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessment is predominantly through the completion of assignment projects. The assignments will take the form of presentations, practical performances, recording video evidence or research and written reports.

**Two internal** assessments and **one external** assessment.

## Course Name

## 4.2 BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award in Engineering

## Why would I want to study this course?

This course provides an introduction for young people who may wish to explore a vocational route in engineering through Key Stage 4. It provides a foundation of knowledge, understanding and practical skills in engineering related topics that reflect the needs of employers and further education courses. It delivers knowledge, skills and understanding in a work-related context, to allow learners to comprehend theory and application.

The BTEC Level1/Level 2 Engineering is studied at KS4. The course content is scientifically and technically based, showing you how to apply the theory. The course consists of three units, the details of which follow below.

**Please note that students are permitted to study a combination of Technology subjects however they will first need to gain approval from the subject leader, Mrs Ryan.**

## What qualification does the course lead to?

When achieved at Level 2, the BTEC Award is broadly equivalent to 1 GCSE. This will enable you to progress to AS and A Levels, BTEC 'Nationals' or apprenticeships.

## What will I study?

The First Award in Engineering comprises of a number of units, one of which is externally assessed by means of an online examination. This unit entitled 'The Engineered World' focuses on essential knowledge relating to all aspects of engineering and technological developments

The other unit covered, 'Investigating an Engineered Product', is internally assessed and focuses on the analysis of an engineered product.

The last unit 'Machining Techniques' looks at the more practical aspects of engineering where pupils will investigate and use various engineering tools and processes to produce a number of practical outcomes.

## How will I learn?

- BTEC Awards courses generally focus on the skills and knowledge needed in the workplace both practical and theoretical. You will learn new things and learn how to apply your knowledge.
- As a BTEC Award student in Engineering, you are expected to be keen on a career in this area, to take responsibility for your own learning and to be well-organised. You should enjoy having more freedom in carrying out assignment work whilst knowing you can still ask for help or support if you need it.
- Tasks will be arranged into assignments that have relevance to the engineering sector and will involve exploring how and why engineered products are made.
- One core mandatory unit 'The Engineered World' is externally assessed online and accounts for 25% of the qualification.

## How will I be assessed?

- Many BTEC Award courses are completed in one year, but as you are taking this course alongside your GCSEs as well, you will be doing it over two years – Years 10 and 11.
- You will be assessed by completing assignments for 75% of the qualification. These assignments are based on learning aims set by the examination board. Each assignment task will be designed to provide evidence at a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade according to the unit assessment criteria. As the student progresses, the evidence is compiled to achieve the qualification. One core unit amounting to 25% of the qualification is externally assessed online.
- Each assignment will have a deadline that you have to meet, but there will be opportunities to receive formative feedback on your progress prior to the final submission date.

## Course Name

4.3 WJEC Level 1 / Level 2 Award  
in Hospitality & Catering

## Why would I want to study this course?

A course in Catering and Hospitality offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for candidates to develop their knowledge and extend their skills in a vocational context.

It will provide opportunities to develop candidates' interdisciplinary skills, a range of Key Skills and their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

This new vocational award offers rigorous challenge, and is equivalent to a GCSE. This course will suit those with a passion for food, and especially benefit students who thrive in a practical learning environment.

This course concentrates on the **food preparation and service** of the Catering industry as well as the hospitality aspects and in particular the skills related to the **preparation and carrying out of practical tasks and functions**.

It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education. It will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.

- This course offers a unique opportunity for you to develop your knowledge and extend skills in a vocational context.
- Only **ONE** piece of coursework needs to be submitted.
- **ONE** practical based task.
- **ONE** written paper at the end of Yr11.

## What qualification does the course lead to?

Level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE)

## What will I study?

is largely on the practical and theoretical aspects of food preparation in a professional context, as well as a range of general topics linked to the hospitality and catering industry. Areas of study include: food preparation, cooking and presentation, health, safety and hygiene, costing and menu planning, job roles and employment opportunities.

## How will I learn?

The course focuses largely on the practical and theoretical aspects of food preparation and will suit those with a passion for food, especially benefitting students who thrive in a practical learning environment.

The specification encourages the investigation and study of Hospitality and catering in a variety of contexts. In these contexts the candidates are given opportunities to acquire competence, capability and critical skills through the creation, implementation, use and evaluation of a range of resources. The course concentrates on the main areas of food production and food service.

## How will I be assessed?

**Written Exam (Unit 1)** One written paper which will be externally set and marked. 40% of overall grade.

In this unit, students will learn about:

- the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry
- the legislation that needs to be adhered to
- the personal safety of all of those involved in the business
- the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success.

Assessment is a written exam, featuring short and long answer questions. Students will need to demonstrate their knowledge of the hospitality and catering industry, how an establishment operates successfully, food safety and customer requirements. They will also need to review and propose ideas for a brief relating to a hospitality and catering establishment.

**NEA Assessment - Coursework and Practical exam (Unit 2)**

In this unit, students will gain knowledge of the needs of a range of customers in order to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. This culminates in a 9 hour assessed piece of work where students plan and prepare dishes according to a set brief. Students research the task, and propose dishes using their knowledge of menu planning, customers' needs, and nutrition and food safety. After producing a detailed time plan, students undertake a 3 hour practical, showcasing their skills. The coursework task is worth 60% of the overall grade.

## Course Name

**4.4 BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award in Public Services****Why would I want to study this course?**

A quarter of all people working the UK work in the Public Services sector. There's a good chance that you will also, whatever line of work you go into. Public Service sectors and the services they provide include:

- emergency services (blue light services): the main services are police, fire and rescue and ambulance;
- armed services: includes the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force;
- local authorities: includes city councils, town councils, county councils, unitary authorities;
- central government: includes responsibility for transport, education, the environment, health, business and skills, and relations with other countries;
- voluntary/third sector services: services provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Mountain Rescue, the Royal Voluntary Service, the Red Cross, St John Ambulance; supporting social services (the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Shelter); supporting health (the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research); animal care.

The rationale for the BTEC First in Public Services includes:

- to inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the public service sector;
- give learners the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the public service sector;
- support progression into a more specialised Level 3 vocational or academic course or into an apprenticeship;
- give learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the public service sector, for example entry level jobs within the armed services or non-uniformed services;
- provide opportunities for the development of transferable skills that provide a platform for success both within the public services and other careers.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

The course leads to a Level 2 BTEC Award which is equivalent to one GCSE. The grades awarded range from Level 1 Pass (equivalent to D grade at GCSE) to Level 2 Distinction\* (equivalent to A\* grade at GCSE).

**What will I study?**

This qualification is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has core and optional specialist units. These units will include:

- two core units (totalling 60 Guided Learning Hours - GLH)
- two optional specialist units (totalling 60 GLH).

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Public Services			
Unit	Core Units	Assessment Method	GLH
1	The Role and Work of the Public Services	External	30
2	Working Skills in the Public Service Sector	Internal	30
Optional Units			
3	Employment in the Public Services	Internal	30
4	Public Services and Community Protection	Internal	30
5	Health, Fitness and Lifestyle for the Public Services	Internal	30

**How will I learn?**

You will have six lessons a fortnight lasting 50 minutes each. These will be a combination of theoretical and practical learning and assessment opportunities. There will also be opportunity to work alongside local and national organisations in both formal and non-formal experiences.

**How will I be assessed?**

This BTEC First Award has units that the school assesses (internal) and a paper-based exam that the board (Pearson) sets and marks (external). Internal assessments will take the form of assignments in both a theoretical and practical context.

# Section 5

## Technical / Applied

### Courses

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Course Name

**5.1 Computer Science****Why would I want to study this course?**

If you consider a world without computers, you will begin to understand why developing your knowledge of the world of computing has become so important in modern life. Students who opt for this course will gain an understanding of how computers work and how to create and troubleshoot computer programs using and developing valuable programming and computational thinking skills which are increasingly relevant to a wide variety of jobs. There are so many opportunities that exist for future pathways whether specialising in Computer Science or using your computing knowledge to supplement and improve your performance in other areas.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

GCSE Computer Science (grades A\*-G)

**What will I study?**

The qualification can be broadly split into two areas; the practical and theoretical aspects of Computing.

Within Unit 1 there are a number of concepts that are covered including;

- computer architecture    • structure of systems and functions    • operating systems
- data and file structures    • automated systems    • logical operations
- how systems communicate: networks and infrastructure; cybersecurity and personal privacy
- algorithms
- software: principles of programming; software development including the software development life cycle

You will also learn about the legal, social, ethical, environmental and professional dimensions and reference to the evolution of technologies where appropriate in the above topics.

Unit 2 – The purpose of this unit is to;

- explore the concept of programming • develop programming skills using Python as the specified language • encourage iterative problem solving and design • develop the use of data modelling skills
- give learners the opportunity to build appropriate user interfaces.

**How will I learn?**

A lot of the work for the course is practical and students will work one per computer learning the necessary skills for completion of the Unit 2 on-screen examination. This includes developing their knowledge of computer programming by carrying out practical tasks that will help develop skills such as creativity, problem-solving, design and evaluation.

Examination topics will be learnt using a variety of methods including research, group work, presentations and practical activities. Additional resources will be provided to support students when preparing for examinations.

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science – a 1 hour 30 minute on-screen examination worth 50%.

Unit 2: Computer programming – This will be a 2 hour on-screen examination based on a pre-release brief worth 50%.

Course Name

**5.2 Digital Technology****Why would I want to study this course?**

This course is designed for students who wish to begin their journey towards a career that utilises digital technologies or to progress onto advanced level programmes of learning involving digital technologies. This course will allow students to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society. It will allow students to become independent, confident users of existing and emerging technologies and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

GCSE Digital Technology (grades A\*-G)

**What will I study?**

The topics and skills developed during the practical coursework units include;  
Interrogating spreadsheet data; Animation or GameMaker. Planning digital communications; creating digital assets/apps

Examples of examination topics include;

Data; Digital technology systems; Digital communications; The impact of digital learning systems on organisations and individuals; Securing data and systems; Changing digital technologies

**How will I learn?**

A lot of the work completed during this course is practical and students will work one per computer where applicable. Students will learn the skills required for completion of the NEA tasks using a range of activities and practise tasks.

Examination topics will be learnt using a variety of methods including research, group work, teacher-led presentations and practical activities. Additional resources will be provided to support students with exam preparation.

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessment of the course is broken down as follows;

**On Screen Examination – 40% of qualification**

**Unit 1: The Digital World** – This comprises a range of questions to assess the specification content related to digital technology systems, the value of digital technology and perspectives on digital technology.

**Non-exam Assessments****Unit 2: Digital Practices - 40% of qualification**

Comprised of two sections. In Section A students will interrogate a data set in order to inform Section B where they will create a website incorporating either an animation or a game.

**Unit 3: Communicating in the Digital World – 20% of qualification**

This unit focuses on marketing digital assets using social media. Students will create digital assets related to a set context and then formulate an online digital communications campaign around them.

Course Name	<b>5.3 Design &amp; Technology: Fashion and Textiles</b>
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### Why would I want to study this course?

If you are interested in Fashion and Textiles through designing and making products this is the course for you. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, you will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasing Textile Industry. You will become aware of, and learn from, wider influences on Fashion and Textiles, including modern, historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

GCSE Fashion and Textiles can lead to further study at A-level or Vocational courses and Higher Education or Apprenticeships all of which can lead onto careers in; Fashion and Textile design and make, interior design, fashion promotion, costume/theatre design and make, retail/buyer/management, garment technologist, personal stylist and so on.

### What qualification does the course lead to?

WJEC GCSE in Design and Technology: Fashion & Textiles

### What will I study?

In Product Design learners study **four** main areas through a variety of Practical and Theoretical approaches, these areas include:

1. Core knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology (the impact & evaluation of new & emerging technologies, energy, modern & smart materials, ecological & social footprint, investigating & analysing the work of others)
2. In-depth knowledge and understanding for Fashion and Textiles (properties of materials/components, pattern cutting, industrial manufacturing processes and practices, fashion in textile products including interior and theatrical design, the role of the media; street styles; fashion; traditions of other cultures and the work and influence of global brands/designers).
3. Core skills (the design process, product analysis, problem solving, decision making, communicating ideas, developing a prototype).
4. In-depth skills for Fashion and Textiles (selecting & working with materials/components, Development of textiles, construction skills, and surface decoration & quality of design: shape, size, aesthetics and function).

### How will I learn?

You'll learn by undertaking a variety of practical and theoretical tasks including:

- Taking part in group discussions/activities.
- Forecasting and fashion predictions.
- Several design and make projects
- Complete a range of practical samples by testing of materials and manufacturing methods
- Using a range of equipment, tools and machinery when designing and making a product.
- Concept sketches and contract designs; final collection ideas.
- Outside speakers and relevant visits.

### How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification 80 marks Summary of assessment Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of the core aspects of design and technology

Unit 2: Design Project Non-examination assessment: Approximately 40 hours 70% of qualification 100 marks. This is a design and make task based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing learners' ability to:

- identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose Learners must select.

**Please note that if you are planning to study two Design Technology courses you will need approval from Mrs Ryan.**

Course Name

**5.4 Design & Technology: Product Design****Why would I want to study this course?**

If you are interested in identifying and solving real problems by designing and making products or systems, this is the course for you. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, you will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

GCSE Design and Technology can lead to further study at A-level or Vocational courses and Higher Education or Apprenticeships all of which can lead onto careers in; skilled trades, engineering, manufacturing furniture/product design, jewellery making, cabinet making/carpentry, architecture and so on.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

WJEC GCSE in Design & Technology: Product Design

**What will I study?**

In Product Design learners study **four** main areas through a variety of Practical and Theoretical approaches, these areas include:

1. Core knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology (the impact & evaluation of new & emerging technologies, energy, modern & smart materials, ecological & social footprint, investigating & analysing the work of others)
2. In-depth knowledge and understanding for product design (properties of materials/components, marking out, specialist techniques & processes for manufacturing, properties and application of surface treatment & finishes)
3. Core skills (the design process, product analysis, problem solving, decision making, communicating ideas, developing a prototype)
4. In-depth skills for product design (selecting & working with materials/components, marking out, using specialist techniques & processes, using surface treatment & finishes)

**How will I learn?**

You'll learn by undertaking a variety of practical and theoretical tasks including:

- Taking part in group discussions/activities.
- Using graphic and ICT techniques, including CAD in the design and making of a product.
- Follow a design brief to complete a product.
- Testing of materials, manufacturing methods and the products made
- Cutting, shaping and joining different materials including papers & boards, timbers, metals, plastics, modern & smart materials.
- Using a range of equipment, tools and machinery when designing and making a product.
- Accurately recording and revising manufacturing process and material properties

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification 80 marks Summary of assessment Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of the core aspects of design and technology

Unit 2: Design Project Non-examination assessment: Approximately 40 hours 70% of qualification 100 marks. This is a design and make task based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing learners' ability to:

- identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose Learners must select.

**Please note that if you are planning to study two Design Technology courses you will need approval from Mrs Ryan.**

## Course Name

## 5.5 GCSE Physical Education &amp; Health

**Why would I want to study this course?**

GCSE Physical Education and Health will enable learners to engage in a practical course, designed to encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and enable them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways.

Through studying GCSE Physical Education and Health learners will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. Learners will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.

Learners will perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. They will develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

A full GCSE qualification in Physical Education and Health.

**What will I study?**

By studying GCSE Physical Education and Health students will:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of health, wellbeing, and physical activity and the links between them,
- Understand the factors that impact on levels of activity and the relationship with physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing through the life cycle,
- Understand the socio-cultural influences on participation, and contemporary developments within sport and physical activity, on a local, national and international stage,
- Perform effectively in different sports and physical activities by developing skills and techniques, and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas,
- Analyse physical performance and select appropriate strategies and interventions for development and improvement,
- Think critically and reflectively about their own performance and practice, and that of others,
- Explore the cross-cutting theme of human rights and diversity, including Black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives, identity, culture, contributions and experiences.

**How will I learn?**

The course will be delivered through both theory and practical lessons, with an emphasis on students building their theoretical understanding through practical application. Students will also have dedicated practical lessons where they will build their practical profile in a range of activities.

**How will I be assessed?****Unit 1: Principles of Physical Education and Health**

**Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**40% of qualification 80 marks**

Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions.

**Unit 2: Performance and Personal Training**

**Non-exam assessment**

**60% of qualification 120 marks**

Learners will be assessed in their **performance in one activity** from an approved list, **their performance or coaching in a second activity** and the **planning, implantation and evaluation of a personal training activity** in the form of their coursework.

Course Name

**5.6 WJEC GCSE in Built Environment****Why would I want to study this course?**

The WJEC GCSE qualification in Built Environment introduces learners to, and develops their understanding of the built environment, including the trades and roles within it, the tools, technologies and materials used in its construction and maintenance, and the processes involved in its design.

The qualification allows learners to develop the practical skills involved in different stages of a buildings life cycle and encourages them to investigate their own built environment and understand the impact it has on the economy, society, culture and the natural environment. The qualification may be taken by learners who wish to begin their journey towards a career in the construction and built environment sector, whether in trade-based, professional or managerial roles, or by learners who want to increase their understanding of the built environment more generally.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

GCSE in Built Environment

**What will I study?**

This WJEC GCSE specification in Built Environment will enable learners to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of theories, ideas and concepts related to the built environment
- knowledge and understanding of the different stages within the life cycle of the built environment
- knowledge and understanding of how different trades and services relate to each other within the built environment
- an appreciation of the built environment, including its design, creation, use and maintenance, and its role in their daily lives
- enquiry skills by exploring the built environment in the community and world in which they live
- skills in planning projects relating to the built environment, using the appropriate equipment to do so
- practical skills in designing or constructing elements of the built environment
- skills in using evidence to evaluate the use, performance and impact of the built environment, both in relation to their own work and that of others
- knowledge and understanding of the tools, materials and processes used in designing, constructing, valuing and using the built environment, including how they change over time.

**How will I learn?**

You will learn through researching, recording and developing skills in a variety of written and practical tasks, including developing your understanding of trades and roles within construction, tools, technologies and materials in construction and maintenance/ design processes.

You will develop construction practical skills in relation to different stages of a buildings life cycle and understand the cultural, environmental and socio-economic impact construction can have.

**How will I be assessed?**

The WJEC GCSE in Built Environment is assessed through a combination of internal and external assessment, both theory and practical.

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment – This is an on-screen examination 1 hour 30 minutes long which is 35% of the qualification.

Unit 2: Creating the Built Environment – This is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is approximately 25 hours and 40% of the qualification and will include written work, drawings and practical work.

Unit 3: Exploring the Built Environment - This is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is approximately 15 hours and 25% of the qualification. This will include case studies of buildings in the local environment.

**Please note that students are permitted to study a combination of Technology subjects, however they will first need to gain approval from the Subject Leader, Mrs Ryan.**

# Section 6 Creative/Expressive Arts

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Course Name

**6.1 Art and Design/ Celf a Dylunio****Why would I want to study this course?**

If you have a genuine passion for the visual arts and a talent for drawing and design, this course offers an exciting opportunity to develop your creativity and artistic skills. You will engage with a wide range of artistic approaches and explore how art and design serve as powerful tools for communication, conveying messages and meanings through a universal visual language. Success in this subject requires a strong aptitude for creative thinking, independent learning, and collaboration. You will also develop the specific technical skills essential to the discipline, preparing you to express your ideas confidently and thoughtfully within the diverse world of art and design.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

A GCSE in Art & Design.

**What will I study?**

This course offers an engaging introduction to the diverse fields of art and design, encompassing disciplines such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and other fine art practices. Students will undertake design projects inspired by a wide range of creative areas, including graphics, photography, fashion, textiles, printmaking and ceramics, fostering the development of a distinctive artistic voice.

Throughout the course, students will be guided through the creative process from initial research and investigation to the successful realisation of their ideas. Emphasis will be placed on responding thoughtfully and imaginatively to design briefs across a variety of themes and topics.

A key focus of the course is to enhance students' understanding of both historical and contemporary art and design practices, enriching their contextual knowledge and informing their creative development. This will be further supported through visits to galleries and participation in practical workshops, providing valuable opportunities to engage directly with a broad spectrum of art, craft, and design.

This course provides an excellent foundation for students to develop as confident, creative thinkers and practitioners, equipped to pursue further study or careers in the diverse world of art and design.

**How will I learn?**

The GCSE is divided into two distinct units.

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work.

This is a sustained unit of coursework produced across Year 10 and Term 1 in Year 11. The course will be divided up into skills based, workshop activities and 'mini- projects' that will be presented for assessment. Work undertaken during this time will begin with teacher selected project work before students develop their own themes to be inspired by. This coursework portfolio will also include a 'Mock Exam' unit.

Unit 2: Externally-Set Task.

This is the assessment unit set by the exam board. Students will be asked to respond to one of the set starting points and will be given a period of time to practically prepare for the exam. A 10-hour period will be made available for the completion of the examination piece within the department.

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1: Portfolio constitutes 60% of the overall grade,

Unit 2: Externally Set Task (Exam) is worth 40%.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the course, and you will be assessed in four main areas:

Critical understanding, Creative making, Reflective Recording and Personal Presentation.

Course Name

6.2 Drama

**Why would I want to study this course?**

Drama is a subject that is chosen for a multitude of reasons. It could be for those students who wish to follow a career in the arts. It could also be for students who wish to develop their communication skills.

Drama at GCSE will allow you to choose a wide range of A levels.

Jobs could range from the teaching of Drama, to Drama Therapy, acting, other work in the Media or a variety of non-related jobs that demand strong communication skills, for example, Law.

It is important to note that Drama is not a soft option and students will have to give up their own time for extra rehearsals, performances and assessments. In order to find success within the subject of Drama, prospective students need to show an aptitude for creative thinking, independent learning and working with others, as well as the specific skills required by the subject.

Theatre visits are an essential part of the course.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

GCSE Drama.

**What will I study?**

The GCSE course comprises of 3 Units.

Unit 1 is worth 40% of the qualification and will require you to devise or develop your own piece of theatre or design using a specific practitioner or acting genre in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. You will be in groups of 2-5 and will complete a portfolio of supporting evidence as well as an evaluation of your performance.

Unit 2 is worth 30% of the qualification and will require you perform an extract from a published play. You will either rehearse this extract in groups of 2-4 or prepare and develop your design idea, this will be assessed by an external examiner in year 11.

Unit 3 is worth 30% of the qualification and will require you to sit a written examination on a text set and unseen texts by WJEC We will study the set text in lesson through the eyes of a director, designer and actor.

**How will I learn?**

Drama is a subject that demands plenty of enthusiasm, and a willingness to explore different means of communication. As the practical assessments need to be performed in groups it is essential that students are team players and are willing to co-operate at all levels.

Acting and directing skills are explored and developed through the performance of scripted and non-scripted work.

Writing and devising skills are utilised in group project work. The course includes a thematic project and a set text, both explored through practical and theoretical work.

Students need to be very aware that Drama is hard work and requires enthusiasm and commitment in equal measure. The higher grades can only be accessed by total commitment and dedication.

With the exception of the onscreen examination, for unit 1 and 2 students can choose the skills of an actor OR a designer. A designer can be set or props, costume or make up, sound or lighting.

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1. 40% of the total GCSE marks. Internally assessed and externally moderated by post.

Unit 2. 30% of the total GCSE marks. Externally assessed.

Unit 3. 30% of the total GCSE marks. Onscreen examination.

**Course Name****6.3 Photography** (provisional dependent on student numbers at Free Choice and reviewed by the school)**Why would I want to study this course?**

If you have a genuine passion for visual storytelling and a keen eye for capturing moments, this photography course offers an exciting opportunity to develop both your creative vision and technical expertise. You will explore a variety of photographic techniques and styles, learning how to use the camera as a powerful tool to communicate ideas, emotions, and narratives through compelling images.

Success in this subject requires creativity, a strong sense of observation, independent learning, and the ability to collaborate with others. You will also gain essential technical skills in camera operation, lighting, and editing, preparing you to express your ideas confidently and thoughtfully within the dynamic and ever-evolving world of photography.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

A GCSE in Photography.

**What will I study?**

This photography course provides a comprehensive introduction to the art and technique of photography, offering students the opportunity to explore a wide range of photographic practices. Through practical sessions and creative projects, students will develop their technical skills in camera operation, composition, lighting, and image editing in both candid and staged settings. The course encourages the exploration of various photographic styles and genres, including portraiture, landscape, documentary, and experimental photography. Students will learn to develop ideas from initial research and concept development through to the creation of a final photographic portfolio, responding creatively to diverse themes and briefs. Both traditional and digital techniques will be explored throughout the course, including exposure to cyanotypes, pin-hole cameras, emulsion lifts, physical editing, Adobe editing software and photo manipulation.

In addition to practical work, the course includes the study of both historical and contemporary photographic practices, fostering a deeper understanding of photography's role within broader artistic, cultural, and social contexts. Visits to galleries and photography exhibitions, along with workshops, will enrich students' learning experiences and inspire creative growth.

By the end of the course, students will have cultivated a strong foundation in photographic techniques and critical thinking, equipping them with the skills necessary to pursue further education or careers in photography and related visual arts fields.

**How will I learn?**

The GCSE is divided into two distinct units.

**Unit 1: Portfolio of Work.**

This is a sustained unit of coursework produced across Year 10 and Term 1 in Year 11. The course will be divided up into skills based, workshop activities and 'mini- projects' that will be presented for assessment. Work undertaken during this time will begin with teacher selected project work before students develop their own themes to be inspired by. This coursework portfolio will also include a 'Mock Exam' unit.

**Unit 2: Externally-Set Task.**

This is the assessment unit set by the exam board. Students will be asked to respond to one of the set starting points and will be given a period of time to practically prepare for the exam. A 10-hour period will be made available for the completion of the examination piece within the department.

**How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1: Portfolio constitutes 60% of the overall grade

Unit 2: Externally Set Task (Exam) is worth 40%.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the course, and you will be assessed in four main areas:

Critical understanding, Creative making, Reflective Recording and Personal Presentation.

Assessment takes the form of ongoing holistic assessment, end of project feedback and a mock exam experience within Unit 1.

Course Name

6.4 Music/ Cerddoriaeth

**Why would I want to study this course?**

If you have enjoyed Music at Key Stage 3 and want to continue your musical studies then this course will allow you to gain further experience in the three main musical activities of Listening, Performing and Composing. Through active involvement in these areas, you will be encouraged to appreciate and enjoy various styles of music. The course is intended to provide you with a range of skills and give you a lasting love of music, which you may then use in preparation for further study or in pursuit of leisure and cultural activities. In order to find success within the subject of Music, prospective students need to show an aptitude for creative thinking, independent learning and working with others, as well as the specific skills required by the subject.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

GCSE Music (WJEC)

The course can lead onto A level Music and/or Music Technology in the sixth form or vocational performing arts industry courses in further education. The course also supports many other subjects through the skills you will acquire.

**What will I study?**

**LISTENING** - a wide range of music will be covered in the course, giving you the skills to enable you to respond to the structural and expressive elements of music, to perceive the relationship between sound and symbol, and to show an awareness of musical styles of the past and present.

**PERFORMING** - you will sing or play individually and as a member of an ensemble.

**COMPOSING** - you will develop your composing skills through study of various styles of music in preparation for the completion of two compositions.

**How will I learn?**

Most lessons will involve the study of music through listening and performing. You will learn to comment in detail on how the musical elements relate to the music you listen to and perform. Alongside the study of various styles you will have the opportunity to develop your own musical interests and skills including the opportunity to make music individually and as part of a group to help you solidify compositional techniques of various styles. You will also learn to compose individually in various styles to produce full length compositions.

You will need to continue to work on your performing skills and should have regular tuition on your instrument or voice. Please see Mrs Ritter if you wish to start school tuition. Taking part in relevant extra-curricular activities will greatly enhance your success in GCSE Music and is a fantastic opportunity for you to develop your ensemble skills for the performance element of the course.

**How will I be assessed?****Performing Music – controlled assessment 32.5%**

One performance on your voice or instrument as part of an ensemble and one performance as a soloist or ensemble member. Learners can choose to perform on any instrument or voice, or technology or a combination of these. (4-6 minutes, at least two pieces)

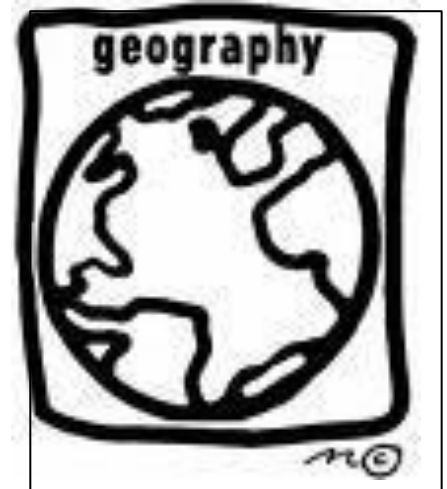
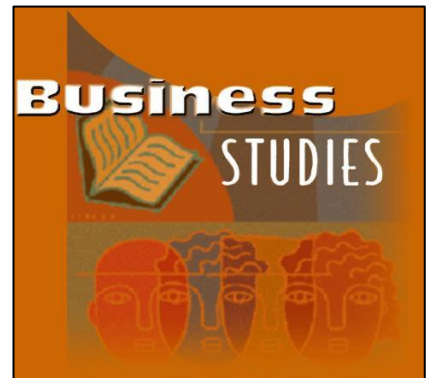
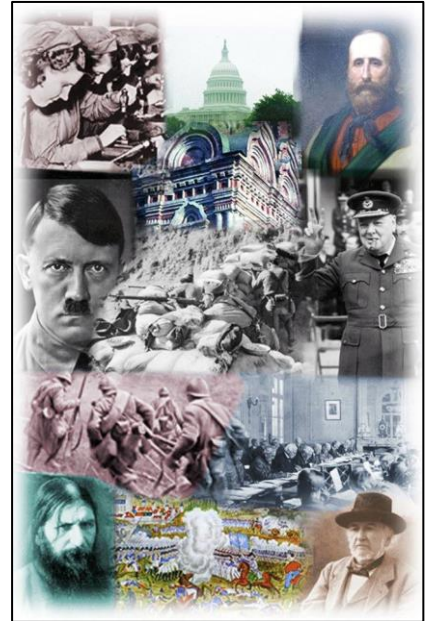
**Composing Music – controlled assessment 32.5%**

Two contrasting compositions (3-6 minutes total playing time) and reflective log.

**Appraising Music – listening paper/exam 35%**

Questions based on areas of study/relevant listening completed throughout the course.

# Section 7 Humanities Rhan 7 Dyniaethau



Course Name

7.1 Geography/ Daearyddiaeth

**Why would I want to study this course?**

Geography at GCSE is an exciting and engaging subject that allows learners to deal with topics relevant to our lives today. Students are able to take charge of their learning and investigation skills as well as honing their decision-making abilities in terms of approaches to managing risk, danger and conflicting opinions. Such approaches really allow learners to develop their own leadership and management skills.

Geography provides students with an insight into many aspects of life in our rapidly changing world. Geography prides itself on its unique position as a bridge between the written world of the Arts and the investigation of the Sciences, combining elements of both the human and physical world. It enables students to question, understand and make sense of the world around them. As a consequence, they will understand how changes in those human and physical systems have an impact on them and the wider world.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

This course leads to a GCSE in Geography awarded by the WJEC.

**What will I study?****Unit 1 – Our Physical & Human World (Year 10)**

Here you will study:

- Drainage basins and rivers
- Changing coastlines
- Migration
- Settlement change

**Unit 2 – Our Dynamic & Diverse World (Year 11)**

Here you will study:

- The geography of inequality
- The highs and lows of our weather
- Wild weather
- Continual climate change
- Managing global challenges

**How will I learn?**

WJEC GCSE Geography adopts an enquiry approach to the study of geographical information, issues and concepts. It is based on the principle that geographical education should enable learners to become critical and reflective thinkers by engaging them actively in the enquiry process. This enquiry approach, in both classroom and fieldwork contexts, enables learners to develop the ability to think 'like a geographer' with opportunities to think creatively, think scientifically and think independently.

Geography is delivered by the use of topical material from all forms of media and encourages the development of many skills among students. The exciting GCSE course is supported by dedicated materials and fieldwork.

**How will I be assessed?**

**Exam 1 Unit 1 Our Physical & Human World** – worth 30% taken in Year 10. One hour and thirty minutes

**Exam 2 Our Dynamic & Diverse World** – worth 30% taken in Year 11. One hour and thirty minutes

**Non-Examination Assessments**

**Unit 2 Developing Fieldwork Skills** – worth 25%. You will carry out a fieldwork based on a topic set by WJEC. You will investigate the chosen location and write a fieldwork enquiry submitted to the WJEC.

**Unit 4 Sustainable Solutions** – worth 15%. You will receive a resource booklet on a real-world issue and undertake background research on that issue. You will write a report based on the issue in a decision-making task reporting how sustainable the various options are likely to be.

## Course Name

## 7.2 History/ Hanes

**Why would I want to study this course?**

The study of History encourages students to explore the contemporary world and understand how that world operates. By studying a wide range of topics, students are provided with a political, economic and social understanding essential for them to become informed and active citizens. The History GCSE course provides knowledge and skills that enable students to understand and fully participate in the world in which they live today. In addition, it is an excellent foundation for many AS and A level studies, and for many careers. For example, the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE are extremely helpful in the study of Law, Politics, Journalism, Finance, Management and Police work. In fact, the most popular profession for Historians to pursue is Accountancy!

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

This course will lead to a full GCSE qualification in History.

**What will I study?**

**Unit 1:** An in-depth study on Welsh history – Wales and the Early Tudors c.1485-1547

**Unit 2:** An in-depth study on European and/or World history – The Black Death c.1330-c.1360: a case study in medieval society

**Unit 3:** A study of a period in World history – Changes in US society c.1880-c.1980

**Unit 4:** A changing society – Britain in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**How will I learn?**

The department takes an investigative approach to the study of History. Students are encouraged to use a very wide range of evidence including newspaper reports, biographies, photographs, maps, films and books in order to support them to analyse and evaluate primary / contemporary evidence, to understand others' interpretations. Students are also encouraged to enrich their knowledge and understanding through wider research via library texts, podcasts, documentaries and the internet. Through the application of this rich knowledge and understanding to evidence and interpretations, students are immersed into the work of the historian and facilitated with making their own well-informed judgements which prepares them for future study and the world of work as well as being independent citizens and leaders of social justice.

**How will I be assessed?**

All exams/NEAs will require students to analyse and evaluate historical sources as well as describe and explain key features of the time period each unit focusses on.

**Unit 1:** Written examination (1 hour) 30% of qualification

**Unit 2:** On-screen non-examination assessment (3 hours) 20% of qualification

**Unit 3:** Written examination (1 hour) 30% of qualification

**Unit 4:** Non-examination assessment (4 hours 15 minutes) 20% of qualification

Course Name

**7.3 Religious Studies/ Astudiaethau Crefyddol****Why would I want to study this course?**

If you are interested in people and events in the world today, this is the subject for you.

The study of religion is of great importance in our own multicultural society and also the wider world in which we live. Religious Studies at GCSE is an objective and academic study of people and how faith (both religious and non-religious) affects their lives. It allows students to acquire knowledge and understanding of beliefs, values, philosophical convictions and traditions and to consider the influence of these. Moral issues and fundamental questions of life and death are an integral part of this study.

It will encourage you to develop curiosity and to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to your study, to explore religions and beliefs, to reflect on fundamental questions, to engage with them intellectually and respond personally.

Religious Studies GCSE does not attempt to lead students towards a particular faith or persuasion. The course is all the more important in the complex, multi-cultural society in which we live. As a by-product, it should teach young people to be tolerant of the differences which exist between people.

Anyone wishing to enter professions such as teaching and caring for others, nursing and medicine, law and law enforcement, media, among others, should seriously consider taking GCSE RS.

**What qualification does the course lead to?**

GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies.

**What will I study?**

You will study non-religious beliefs and worldviews, alongside the teachings, beliefs and practices of Christianity (the largest of global faiths, followed by 2.2 billion people worldwide) and Hinduism (the oldest of the major world faiths), You will examine philosophical issues of life and death (such as abortion, euthanasia, the afterlife) and ethical issues within relationships (same sex relationships, adultery, divorce, contraception) and of humans rights (freedom of belief, justice, punishment)

**How will I learn?**

All GCSE RS learning is planned with the student in mind. A variety of styles are used to support visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learners, and an experiential, active approach to learning brings the subject alive. Students explore content via text and documentaries; they will reflect via stillings and circle times; they will critically evaluate via debates and discussions; they will consolidate via drama, role-play, re-enactments, and art and craft 'make-it challenges'.

A visit to the Swaminarayan Mandir in London and a Hindu meal at a restaurant, alongside a visit to Christian places of worship will give students a more enriching and meaningful learning experience of Hinduism and Christianity. In addition, these enrichment visits allow our students to engage with members of faith traditions, asking questions of importance, to increase understanding.

Students will develop a variety of important key skills as they explore the course: literacy (reading, speaking, listening, writing), digital competency, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, planning and organisation, and personal effectiveness.

**How will I be assessed?**

There will be 4 examined assessment points (2 of which are external examinations; 2 of which are Non-Examination Assessments or NEAs):

- Unit 1: Examination in summer term of Year 11 (worth 30%)
- Unit 2: NEA completed in Year 10 (worth 20%)
- Unit 3: Examination in summer term of Year 11 (worth 30%)
- Unit 4: NEA completed in Year 11 (worth 20%)

## Summary of Sixth Form Courses Offered In 2025

### TWO YEAR ADVANCED (LEVEL 3) COURSES

Art & Design+	History+
Business BTEC National Extended Certificate+	Maths
Biology	Music
Chemistry	Music Technology+
Classical Civilisation	PE+
Computer Science +	Physics
Criminology Level 3 Applied Diploma	Psychology+
Design Technology: Product Design	Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics+
Design Technology: Textiles & Fashion	Sport BTEC Extended Certificate+
Engineering BTEC National Extended Certificate+	Sport BTEC National Diploma+
English Language	Sport BTEC Extended National Diploma
English Literature	Theatre Studies+
French	Uniformed Protective Services BTEC National Extended Certificate+
Further Maths	Welsh
Geography+	Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales
German	
Health & Social Care	

+ Previous study of the subject **not** essential.

GCSE re-sit courses in English Language & Maths will be available.

